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Black Colleges

Federal agencies, under orders from President Reagan to extend help to historically black colleges and universities, are providing \$629 million in aid this year to the black campuses, two Reagan Cabinet officers said Monday.

That amounts to "a whopping 11.5 percent increase," Education Secretary T.H. Bell told a gathering of presidents and other officials from the more than 100 historically black institutions.

Reagan, who signed an executive order on Sept. 15, 1981, instructing federal departments and agencies to boost spending on black campuses, invited the educators to a reception at the White House later Monday.

According to an annual report, the historically black colleges are receiving \$629.3 million this year, or 6.3 percent of all federal money spent on the nation's 3,200 colleges and universities.

The biggest chunk was in the form of research and development grants totaling \$292.9 million, or 5.6 percent of all such aid. Students at the black colleges got \$232.8 million in aid, or 6 percent of the total. Bell noted students got Pell Grants averaging \$1,064 at the black campuses, compared to a national average of \$832.

The government also provided \$52.4 million in aid for facilities and equipment, \$29.1 million for training and \$21.3 million for fellowships at the historically black colleges.

The Agriculture Department awarded \$50 million to black land grant universities and Tuskegee Institution, and the Department of Health and Human Services forgave a \$29 million debt owed by Meharry Medical College. The National Aeronautic and Space Administration increased its aid from \$3.3 million to \$5.9 million, while the Energy Department tripled its support, from \$1.9 million to \$6.1 million.

Nineteen agencies increased their support in 1983, while five spent less on the black campuses and no figures were available from three others.

Among those spending less was the Central Intelligence Agency, down from \$259,041 to \$214,000.